7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

Measures to Improve Productivity and Quality of Output

1. Improved Lighting, Noise Abatement and Temperature Control

Good lighting is important in reducing fatigue, improving the quality of work and increasing production. Light that glares has the same effect as too little illumination; in either circumstance workers tire easily and their efficiency is quickly lowered. In designing new industrial buildings care should be taken to avoid the direct rays of the sun and to arrange wherever possible for the light to come from the north through the roof. In many existing plants, especially in the two-story buildings, the amount of artificial lighting needs to be increased.

Tests have also shown conclusively that a continuous high level of noise quickly brings fatigue and boredom. The resulting loss in productivity fully justifies taking whatever steps are feasible, such as the installation of sound-absorbing ceilings, to reduce the noise level to generally acceptable limits.

While the average temperature in Iraq is high, the humidity is quite low. This greatly simplifies the conditioning of air for comfort, it being necessary only to increase the humidity to decrease the temperature. This practice, known as "desert cooling," is now being adopted with considerable success and should be extended in those industries (especially textile mills) where it is of distinct advantage.

2. Improvements in Flow of Material

With the exception of the new textile mill, industrial plants are poorly arranged from the standpoint of material flow. Most buildings have two stories, requiring either stairs, conveyors or elevators to move material through the plant. Columns to support the upper floor interfere with operations on the lower floor. Such an arrangement requires duplicate handling of material and interferes with the use of modern equipment such as fork trucks. Similarly, the buildings which comprise a plant are frequently laid out without regard to the flow of materials from one to the other. There are, moreover, many cases of duplicate operations (for example, separate power plants). While it is difficult to correct existing conditions, the layout of any new plants should be